

Attorney Docket No. 9052-96

IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED OFFICE (DO/US)

In re: **Anthony Donnellan**
International Appl. No.: **PCT/GB00/01678**
International Filing Date: **May 2, 2000**
For: *A Tiling Aid*

Date: October 29, 2001

Box PCT
Attn: DO/US
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows. Attached hereto at pages 7-11 is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The marked-up version of the changes is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made." The changes represent changes to the claims and specification as published in PCT Published Application WO 01/09460.

If any extension of time for the accompanying response or submission is required, Applicant requests that this be considered a petition therefor. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit any refund to our Deposit Account No. 50-0220.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, line 1, please insert the following:

-- Cross-Reference to Related Applications

The present application is a U.S. national phase application of PCT International Application No. PCT/GB00/01678, having an international filing date of May 2, 2000 and claiming priority to Great Britain Application No. 9909989.7 filed April 30, 1999, and Great Britain Application No. 9910892.0 filed May 11, 1999, the disclosures of which are

incorporated herein by reference in their entireties. The above PCT International Application was published in the English language and has International Publication No. WO 01/09460. --

On page 1, between the first and second paragraphs, delete "**Background Art Known to the Applicant**" and insert -- **Background of the Invention** --.

On page 5, between the fourth and fifth paragraphs, delete "**Description of the Preferred Embodiments**" and insert -- **Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments** --.

On page 10, in the first line, delete "**CLAIMS**" and insert -- **What Is Claimed Is:** -- therefor.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please insert the following after the claims:

Abstract

A tiling guide to aid the placement of tiles on to a surface comprises an elongate substantially flat strip having fixing means to secure the guide to a surface. The guide is provided with a ridge against which a tile can be aligned, and is so sized as to be obscured from view following conventional grouting. The ridge may be provided with a series of cut-outs, and preferably has a castellated shape to enable the guide to be rolled up during storage and transportation. Fixing means is preferably in the form of a layer of adhesive protected prior to use by a peelable paper strip. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. A tiling guide to aid the placement of tiles onto a surface, the tiling guide comprising surface-engaging means which enable the tiling guide to be secured to the surface, one or more substantially flat elongate portions each having a tile engaging side and a surface engaging side, and tile abutment means to align the edge of a tile, the tiling guide being so sized as to be completely obscured from view once the completed tiling has been

conventionally grouted.

2. A tiling guide according to Claim 1 wherein the tile abutment means comprises a ridge extending away from the tile engaging side.
3. A tiling guide according to Claim 2 wherein the ridge is located along a central longitudinal axis of the tiling guide.
4. A tiling guide according to Claim 2 wherein the ridge comprises one or more cut-outs.
5. A tiling guide according to Claim 4 wherein the ridge has a castellated cross-section parallel to a longitudinal axis of the tiling guide.
6. A tiling guide according to Claim 2 wherein the ridge has a T-shaped cross-section, the T-shape allowing the grout to key into the tiling guide.
7. A tiling guide according to Claim 1 wherein the tiling guide comprises two non-parallel substantially flat elongate portions.
8. A tiling guide according to Claim 7 wherein the angle between the two non-parallel substantially flat elongate portions is selected from the group comprising 60°, 45°, 90° and 120°.
9. A tiling guide according to Claims 1 to 5 wherein the tiling guide comprises a single elongate portion.
10. A tiling guide according to Claim 1 wherein the or each end of the tiling guide is provided with one or more markings to enable the or each end to be cut away at a specific angle.

11. A tiling guide according to Claim 1 wherein the surface-engaging means comprises an adhesive along the surface-engaging side of the tiling guide.

12. A tiling guide according to Claim 11 wherein prior to use of the tiling guide the adhesive is protected by a removable sheet.

13. A tiling guide according to Claim 1 wherein the or each elongate portion comprises a number of cut outs along the or each edge to enable the tiling guide to be bent into a desired curved shape.

14. A tiling guide according to Claim 1 wherein the tile engaging side of the tiling guide is roughened by means of scratches or grooves.

15. A tiling guide according to Claim 1 wherein the tile engaging side subtends an angle of from 2 to 10° with the surface.

Please cancel Claim 16.

17. A method of tiling comprising the steps of:
establishing a line on or adjacent the surface to be tiled;
securing a tiling guide of the type specified herein above to the surface using the established line to assist alignment of the tiling guide;
applying adhesive to the surface to be tiled;
aligning one or more tiles along the tiling guide;
tiling the remainder of the surface; and
applying grout to fill in the space between the tiles and obscure the tiling guide from view.

18. A method of tiling according to Claim 17 wherein the tile is aligned by

abutment against an outwardly extending ridge located on the tiling guide.

19. A method of tiling according to Claim 17 wherein a second tiling guide is secured at an angle, adjacent the tiling guide to enable two edges of a tile to be aligned.

20. A pack of tiles comprising:

a) a tiling guide to aid the placement of tiles onto a surface, the tiling guide comprising:

surface-engaging means which enable the tiling guide to be secured to the surface;

one or more substantially flat elongate portions each having a tile engaging side and a surface engaging side; and

tile abutment means to align the edge of a tile, the tiling guide being so sized as to be completely obscured from view once the completed tiling has been conventionally grouted; and

b) a plurality of tiles packaged with the tiling guide.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the foregoing amendments.

The above claims have been amended to better conform to U.S. practice and to eliminate the multiple dependency of claims.

Please enter this amendment prior to calculating the fee in this case. Applicant respectfully requests substantive examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



David D. Beatty
Registration No. 38,071

In re: Anthony Donnellan
International Appl. No.: PCT/GB00/01678
International Filing Date: May 2, 2000
Page 6

Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec
Post Office Box 37428
Raleigh, NC 27627
Telephone (919) 854-1400
Facsimile (919) 854-1401

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

Express Mail Label No. EL920743259US

Date of Deposit: October 29, 2001

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to:
BOX PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Meredith Schuessler
Meredith Schuessler

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES

In the Specification:

The specification has been amended as follows:

On page 1, line 1, please insert the following:

-- Cross-Reference to Related Applications

The present application is a U.S. national phase application of PCT International Application No. PCT/GB00/01678, having an international filing date of May 2, 2000 and claiming priority to Great Britain Application No. 9909989.7 filed April 30, 1999, and Great Britain Application No. 9910892.0 filed May 11, 1999, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties. The above PCT International Application was published in the English language and has International Publication No. WO 01/09460. --

On page 1, between the first and second paragraphs, delete "**Background Art Known to the Applicant**" and insert -- **Background of the Invention** --.

On page 5, between the fourth and fifth paragraphs, delete "**Description of the Preferred Embodiments**" and insert -- **Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments** --.

On page 10, in the first line, delete "**CLAIMS**" and insert -- **What Is Claimed Is:** -- therefor.

In the Abstract:

The following has been inserted after the claims:

-- Abstract

A tiling guide to aid the placement of tiles on to a surface comprises an elongate substantially flat strip having fixing means to secure the guide to a surface. The guide is provided with a ridge against which a tile can be aligned, and is so sized as to be obscured from view following conventional grouting. The ridge may be provided with a series of cut-outs, and preferably has a castellated shape to enable the guide to be rolled up during storage and transportation. Fixing means is preferably in the form of a layer of adhesive protected prior to use by a peelable paper strip. --

In the Claims:

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. **(Amended)** A tiling guide [(1)] to aid the placement of tiles onto a surface, the tiling guide [(1)] comprising surface-engaging means [(12)] which enable the tiling guide [(1)] to be secured to the surface [and characterised in that the guide (1) comprises], one or more substantially flat elongate portions [(2)] each [portion (2)] having a tile engaging side and a surface engaging side, [the guide (1) further comprising] and tile abutment means [(3)] to align the edge of a tile, the tiling guide [(1)] being so sized as to be completely obscured from view once the completed tiling has been conventionally grouted.

2. **(Amended)** A tiling guide [(1)] according to Claim 1 [characterised in that] wherein the tile abutment means comprises a ridge [(3)] extending away from the tile engaging side.

3. **(Amended)** A tiling guide [(1)] according to Claim 2 [characterised in that] wherein the ridge [(3)] is located along [the] a central longitudinal axis of the tiling guide [(1)].

4. **(Amended)** A tiling guide [(1)] according to [either of Claims 2 or 3 characterised in that] Claim 2 wherein the ridge [(3)] comprises one or more cut-outs.

5. **(Amended)** A tiling guide [(1)] according to Claim 4 [characterised in that] wherein the ridge [(3)] has a castellated cross-section parallel to [its] a longitudinal axis of the tiling guide.

6. **(Amended)** A tiling guide [(1)] according to [any of Claims 2 to 5 characterised in that] Claim 2 wherein the ridge [(3)] has a T-shaped cross-section [91], the T-shape allowing the grout to key into the tiling guide [(1)].

7. (Amended) A tiling guide [(1)] according to ~~[any preceding claim characterised in that]~~ Claim 1 wherein the tiling guide comprises two non-parallel substantially flat elongate portions [(16A, 16B)].

8. (Amended) A tiling guide [(1)] according to Claim 7 ~~[characterised in that]~~ wherein the angle between the two non-parallel substantially flat elongate portions [(16A, 16B)] is selected from the group comprising 60°, 45°, 90° and 120°.

9. (Amended) A tiling guide [(1)] according to Claims 1 to 5 ~~[characterised in that]~~ wherein the tiling guide comprises a single elongate portion.

10. (Amended) A tiling guide [(1)] according to ~~[any preceding claim characterised in that]~~ Claim 1 wherein the or each end of the tiling guide [(1)] is provided with one or more markings [(14)] to enable the or each end to be cut away at a specific angle.

11. (Amended) A tiling guide [(1)] according to ~~[any preceding claims characterised in that]~~ Claim 1 wherein the surface-engaging means [(12)] comprises an adhesive along the surface-engaging side of the tiling guide [(1)].

12. (Amended) A tiling guide [(1)] according to Claim 11 ~~[characterised in that]~~ wherein prior to use of the tiling guide [(1)] the adhesive is protected by a removable sheet [(11)].

13. (Amended) A tiling guide [(1)] according to ~~[any preceding claims characterised in that]~~ Claim 1 wherein the or each elongate portion comprises a number of cut outs along the or each edge to enable the tiling guide [(1)] to bent into a desired curved shape.

14. (Amended) A tiling guide [(1)] according to ~~[any preceding claims~~

characterised in that Claim 1 wherein the tile engaging side of the tiling guide [(1)] is roughened by means of scratches or grooves.

15. (Amended) A tiling guide [(1)] according to **[any preceding claims characterised in that]** Claim 1 wherein the tile engaging side subtends an angle of from 2 to 10° with the surface.

Claim 16 has been cancelled.

17. (Amended) A method of tiling comprising the steps of:
establishing a line on or adjacent the surface to be tiled;
securing a tiling guide of the type specified herein above to the surface using the established line to assist alignment of the tiling guide;
applying adhesive to the surface to be tiled;
aligning one or more tiles along the tiling guide;
tiling the remainder of the surface; and
applying grout to fill in the space between the tiles and obscure the tiling guide from view.

18. (Amended) A method of tiling according to Claim 17 **[characterised in that,]** wherein the tile is aligned by abutment against an outwardly extending ridge located on the tiling guide.

19. (Amended) A method of tiling according to **[either of Claims 17 or 18 characterised in that]** Claim 17 wherein a second tiling guide is secured at an angle, adjacent the tiling guide to enable two edges of a tile to be aligned.

20. (Amended) A pack of tiles **[incorporating a tiling guide (1) of the type defined in Claim 1] comprising:**

a) a tiling guide to aid the placement of tiles onto a surface, the tiling

guide comprising:

surface-engaging means which enable the tiling guide to be secured to
the surface;

one or more substantially flat elongate portions each having a tile
engaging side and a surface engaging side; and

tile abutment means to align the edge of a tile, the tiling guide being so
sized as to be completely obscured from view once the completed tiling has
been conventionally grouted; and

b) a plurality of tiles packaged with the tiling guide.